

REMARKS

UPON THE

T R I A L

O F

WILLIAM SUTTON, Esq;

By an Impartial By-Stander.



L O N D O N:

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REMARKS, &c.

FTER perusing the sever-
al accounts relating to the
unfortunate Miss Bell; I
beg leave (though to some
it may appear impertinent) to lay
before the public, a few reflections
that occurred to me since the death
of that much to-be pitied young lady:
and as I do, upon my honour,
declare I did not know Miss Bell nor
any of the gentlemen, concerned in
that inhuman affair, so I hope I shall
not be accused of partiality for what
I shall advance in the following
pages.

B

Every

Every man that is prompted to take up the pen in defence of justice, innocence, or even in commiseration of the unhappy and distressed, has certainly a right to expect a fair and candid perusal; and such, I trust, he will always have by the friends to virtue and humanity. I shall not attempt to offer any thing in vindication of the character of the unhappy young lady; for, that she was in some degree abandoned, I think, admits of no doubt: but let her be ever so much abandoned, suppose her dead to every sense of shame, yet surely she never could deserve the cruel, brutish, and inhuman treatment she met with from somebody. I say, admit she was callous to every thing that is good, and then, I think, all circumstances considered, we shall rather be inclined to pity her than to think

the

the barbarous treatment she met with a just punishment for her sins: but it does not appear to me that this girl (when sober) was at all wickedly inclined; on the contrary we find her (for one of her unhappy calling) remarkably delicate and modest; and as Captain Holland and several other people, whose varacity, I think, is to be depended upon, had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with her several times, when sober; I think, it is very improbable she should relate an untruth so often, to so many different people, at so many different times, and hardly ever vary in one material circumstance. This, I think, is very odd; but not so much to be wondered at as some other things relating to this very extraordinary affair.

When a man is tried and acquitted by the laws of his country, I apprehend, no man has a right to call his innocence in question: but I would ask any unprejudiced observer, whether it does not plainly appear from every circumstance, as well as from the pamphlet wrote by Capt. Holland, whose humanity, friendship, and disinterested generosity, can never be too much extolled, that Miss Bell had two very bad wounds?

I likewise beg the favour to ask, if Mr. S. did not give her those wounds, who did? I cannot find that any other person was even suspected. Perhaps you'll say she had no wounds, the wretch was delirious, and eaten up with a complication of disorders, and did not know what she said; this might be the case: but I do not find that Capt. Holland ever found
her

her in this delirious condition, tho' he visited her several times, and that not long before her death, when I should imagine her disorder was at the height. On the other hand, she was always perfectly in her senses, and never varied in her story to him.

If we admit she was sensible, and that she really related what Capt. Holland has made public; we must, I think, bring somebody in guilty, of giving her the wounds at least, for no person, I think, that is actuated in the least, with the principle of generosity, can suppose a poor creature sinking and almost expiring under a load of infamy, no charitable person, I say, can reasonably suppose a poor creature in her unhappy and deplorable situation, and at the same time sensible of the danger she was
in,

in, would brand an innocent person with being guilty of a crime of the blackest dye. I own I am weak enough to think there is not that wretch breathing, that is sensible he has not many hours to live, that would go out of the world with a perjury in his mouth; a perjury too of the most heinous nature.

No one, I think has accused Capt. Holland of being any way interested in this affair, and therefore I cannot suppose Miss Bell did not tell him what he has related in his pamphlet. viz. "That Mr. S. gave her the "wounds she then so sensibly felt, "and told her he would cut her so "she should not be able to sit; and "if that would not do, the next time "he saw her he would cut her so that "she should not be able to live;" [cruel and inhuman!] "He then," says

says she, " pulled out a penknife
" and stabbed me as if he had been
" stabbing a hog."

Capt. Holland, naturally asked her what provocation she had given Mr. S. to occasion this strange and wanton behaviour; when she answered, not like a woman delirious, " I
" cannot tell, for I do not know, I
" ever affronted him in my life,
" at least, never to deserve such treat-
" ment."

When she went home to her lodgings, she was bruised from head to foot; all which wounds, Capt. Holland says she told him, " Were
" given by Mr. S. She being asked
" whether she saw Mr. S. after that,
" answered, no; but finding my ill-
" ness increase, and that he did not
" come near me, I wrote him a let-
" ter,

" ter, informing him of my sickness
 " and distress." When Mr. S. says
 the witness, returned her the follow-
 ing polite answer, which, as it is an
 original, and as it may chance to
 serve other Gentlemen upon some
 future occasion, I shall beg leave to
 transcribe at full length. " Miss
 " Bell, if you are well, I am well,
 " pay the post and all is well."

Reader, let me beg you to reflect,
 that this is a letter from a young
 Gentleman of family, that has re-
 ceived a polite education, to his be-
 loved Mistress, labouring under severe
 misfortunes; a Mistress too, that had
 undoubtedly granted him many fa-
 vours, and who was Mr. S---'s in-
 ferior in nothing but being unfor-
 tunate.

Capt.

Capt. Holland declares that she was always in her senses when he saw her; the last time he saw her, he told her he was going to write to her father, and desired to know if she had any thing particular to say. She answered, no; but soon recollecting herself, she said, "Pray give my duty to my dear Mother, and let her know I have not a great while to be in this world, but I hope I shall meet her in another, where we may be more happy than we have been in this." [perfectly sensible this.]

I have made these quotations to prove that the girl was not always delirious, during her last illness: therefore if we admit that, as I think every unprejudiced person must, we should be very uncharitable to suspect her of perjury, especially as she was so apparently sensible of the danger

she was in, and had such a lively sense of her duty to her parents, hoping too that she should be happy in the world to come.

These things premised, I think, it appears pretty plain that Miss Bell did receive two wounds, which she thought, and that when she was in her senses too, would certainly be the occasion of her death; whether they were or not I shall not take upon me to determine.

As I am entirely unacquainted with both parties, and as I write free from prejudice and ill-nature, so I hope I shall not be condemned for my attachment to either side of the question: and should I be in the least instrumental in clearing up, what the town, at present, seem to be very much dissatisfied with, my end

end will be accomplished. In order to which give me leave to ask the following questions.

First, I would ask, what could be the reason for refusing Capt. Holland admittance, when the coroner's inquest sat upon the body of the deceased, although he had a summons to attend, did attend, and was desirous of being heard. This, to say no worse of it, was certainly very imprudent of Mr. U. for if there was nothing unfair going forward, why should Capt. Holland be refused, what any man has a right to insist upon.

And again, was it not very ridiculous to summons a man to attend, when they did not intend to hear what he had to say, though he came punctual to their orders? I do not

mean to cast any reflection on Mr. U. but I really think Capt. Holland had great reason from the above circumstances, to complain of ungentle treatment; since whatever occasioned the death of the deceased, Capt. Holland's presence could not have done any harm, nor have been of any disservice.

Secondly, I would ask, whether it does not appear from every circumstance, related in the first part of the trial, that Miss Bell was by somebody extremely ill-used at the bagnio? and farther, that she did receive two very bad wounds there? to say nothing of the bruises in her side, &c. which probably might be occasioned by a fall in a drunken fit. Now, as it appears from the circumstance of her sending for clean linen to the bagnio, and from what she said to her maid E. Honyball, when

when she came home, exclusive of what she afterwards said to Mr. Holland, that she did absolutely receive these two wounds, at the bagnio, I would, thirdly, ask who was brutish enough to be guilty of such a piece of cruelty?

I think, we cannot, reasonably, suppose any person guilty of giving her the wounds, that were not in company with her; and as it also appears very plain that she had been most of the time she was absent from home, in the company of Sir W. F. and Mr. S. I own, I think, there is sufficient reason to suspect that one of those Gentlemen were guilty of some very shameful indecencies; and as she herself [though delirious] entirely exculpated Sir W. F. I think, it does not require any great conjuration to find out the real offender.

When

When the foregoing part of these remarks were written, I had only read the two first parts of the trial, and Mr. Holland's pamphlet; where every thing appeared so plain to me, in behalf of Mr. Holland, that I could scarce harbour a wish in favour of Mr. S. but as I was determined at my first sitting down to write, to represent facts, as they appeared to me, so I shall shew my impartiality, by carefully attending to the latter part of the trial; where the scene is entirely changed, and every thing appears unquestionably in favour of Mr. S.

In order to set this matter in as clear a light as possible, I shall consider the credit of the witnesses on both sides of the question, and how far their evidence corroborates together, and shall then make

make some short remarks upon the whole.

The Witnesses on Mr. Holland's side were,

E. Honyball, servant to the deceased.

Capt. Holland, adjutant of the Norfolk Militia.

Ann Knight, daughter of the woman where the deceased lodged at Marybone.

Mr. Drake, merchant, in the city.

Mr. Moon, steward to Lord Orford.

Miss Young, an unfortunate lady.

The Rev. Mr. Boot, of Marybone.

The material part of Honyball's evidence seems to be the circumstances

stances of her mistress's sending for her to the bagnio, and ordering her to bring her some clean linen. The linen she fetched away, she says; was very bloody: she also says, her mistress, Miss Bell, frequently asked her for some pomatum, and used to take it into the bed; and used to say she had something which she did not choose to tell of, and it would be her death. This was after the 30th of August, when her mistress was at Mrs. Parker's, where she lodged.

She likewise swears that her mistress not only told her, but Mrs. Parker, and several other people, that she had two very bad wounds, which would be her death; and that she received them from Mr. S. in the manner related in the former part of this pamphlet, and that the wounds were so bad that it prevented the
nurse

nurse from administering a Glyster,
&c.

Capt. Holland, is very circumstantial, and relates what he has advanced in his pamphlet, and what is quoted in the former part of this, with very little variation.

Ann Knight, delivers in her evidence very prettily and extremely clear, every part of which exactly agrees with Mr. Holland's; which story, she says, she relates just as she was told it by Miss Bell, when to all appearance she was in her perfect sences.

Mr. Drake agrees with the foregoing witnesses in regard to the wounds, and says Miss Bell told him they were given her with a pen-knife, but does not say by whom.

D

Mr.

Mr. Moon advances nothing material.—What he says seems to be from the information of Capt. Holland.

Miss Young appears to know very little of the matter, and what she says is mere matter of opinion.

The Rev. Mr. Boot, who attended her in her illness to pray by her, says she never in his hearing laid the cause of her death to any particular person, but that she appeared perfectly sensible, very discreet and devout.

I come now to examine the witnesses on the behalf of the offender, Mr. S. which are,--

Frances Waldgrave, nurse to the deceased.

Thomas Blis, an apothecary.

Mr.

Mr. S.

Alexander Sexton, formerly waiter
at Haddock's bagnio.

Daniel Heaviland, another waiter
at the same place.

Elizabeth Jones, servant at Had-
dock's bagnio.

Mary Ashmead, servant at the
same place.

Dr. Smith.

Mr. Crane, and

Mr. Pott, both Surgeons.

Frances Waldgrave deposes, that
she went to nurse Miss Bell; and after
she had been there some time, by the
apothecary's orders, she attempted
to administer a Clyster, but was pre-
vented by the wounds, or sores that
she found near the fundament of the
deceased.

Here I must observe, that Capt. Holland in giving in his evidence, says he was informed of the wounds Miss Bell had, by this nurse as well as by the deceased; but the nurse utterly denies his having any particular conversation with her on that subject, and says she never told him a syllable of the matter; nor did he ever ask her.

Mr. B. The apothecary, gave in his evidence with great precision, and declares upon his oath, that these wounds or sores could not contribute to hasten her death; and supposes they were as salutary as an issue in the arm would be towards her recovery.

I must, however, in some measure, condemn Mr. B.---'s positiveness, for I think no man is capable of making good

good what he so boldly asserted, viz.
 " That with her habit of body, a mortification would have happened there, whether she had wounds or not, and that she would have mortified just where she did, and when she did, and would have died at the precise time."

Mr. B. is no doubt a fatalist, or he would not have been able to tell how all those things would have happened; but I must own I differ a good deal from Mr. B. in opinion.—For, if she had wounds, I really think they must aid the mortification, and consequently hasten her death.

I come now to *Mr. S---*'s defence; but shall only take notice of such parts of it, that are essential; and that tend to set things in a clear light.

After

After declaring his innocence, he very sensibly remarks, that it was extremely odd this girl did not make her complaints, and occasion him to be apprehended before she saw *Mr. Holland*, which was a great many days after this was said to be perpetrated.

This behaviour I think was extremely odd; for what could be her reasons for not making a full discovery of the whole affair, to *Mrs. Parker*? If she did not care to mention it to a man [which by the bye, is a delicacy not to be expected from a lady of her calling] surely she could not be ashamed to tell *Mrs. Parker*; who would doubtless have been good-natured enough to have enquired farther into this very intricate affair.

The

The waiters and the maid servants at the bagnio, set this matter in a very clear light, they all agree exactly as to the time and circumstances; and have upon their oaths declared they never saw or heard that Mr. S. used Miss Bell ill, any other way than by not making her the usual present, which to be sure was enough to exasperate her to a very high degree; and which I suppose has been the real occasion of all this mischief.

Dr. Smith, the physician, called in by Mr. B. is very clear in his evidence, and thinks to the best of his judgement, that an obstinate inflammatory fever, was the occasion of those eruptions, which have hitherto been call'd wounds, but which the Dr. truly says, is nothing extraordinary in cases of the like nature.

Mr.

Mr. Crane and Mr. Pott, gentlemen of the faculty, of known abilities and reputation, entirely agree with Dr. Smith, and say they have often met with cases of a similar nature.

Thus have I endeavoured to set matters in a clear light, by considering the credit of the witnesses, on both sides, and shall now leave every man to judge for himself. But before I take my leave, I shall beg to make a few observations on the whole, which may still serve to illustrate and explain, what may otherwise remain a little perplexed and intricate.

Miss Bell's maid Honeyball, says upon her oath that her mistress was ill a bed, during the whole time of Bartholomew fair; but Mary Ashmead, one of the servants at the bagnio,

bagnio, declares upon her oath likewise, that Miss Bell, came to Haddock's bagnio the day after the wounds were said to be given, and seemed in perfect health, asked for a dram, and told her she was going to Bartholomew fair: therefore one of these servants must absolutely be perjured.

Every person that will give himself time to recollect, must think it extremely odd that the wounds could be given, and the young creature used in the barbarous manner, she says she was, and at a public bagnio, where the waiters are constantly running up and down stairs, and they, nor any body else in the house, never to hear any thing of the matter. This, I think, is not very probable: for can it be supposed she would tamely submit herself to be cut and

E flashed

flashed in the manner she has described, and never so much as cry out for assistance. Nay, what is still more improbable, is her going home to her lodgings and never so much as telling any of the servants at the bagnio [who were her intimates] that she had received the least hurt. I should imagine if Mr. S. had used her ill, tho' it is possible he might prevent her crying out while he was treating her in this manner; yet when she gained her liberty, I wonder she did not fly to the first person she saw for protection; to whom she might, with safety, have told her tale; especially as waiters at bagnios, and those sort of ladies generally understand one another pretty well.

Capt. Holland says the nurse met him in an outer room, when he went to see the deceased, and told him what

what has already been related: the nurse, upon her oath, declares she never told him a word of the matter. One of these must be very much mistaken; which it is, is best known to themselves.

If Miss Bell had been wounded in the manner represented by Capt. Holland, she certainly must have bled a great deal. Then is it not extremely odd that there was not the least appearance of blood found, either upon the floor or bed in the room where she is said to have received her death's wound?

But that she received her death's wound at that bagnio I do firmly believe; for the liquor she drank there was certainly enough to kill any Drayman in London.

Upon the whole, I think, it appears very plain that she did not receive any involuntary wounds at all; but that she poisoned herself with strong liquors, and died in consequence of that debauch, I sincerely think is true.

The gentlemen, no doubt, might be a little merry too, and in the midst of their mirth, I suppose, some words arose between them and the ladies, and possibly Mr. S. might give her a kick, which she might very likely deserve; and that added to his going away and not giving her any thing, was enough to enrage her: and what will not those kind of people say when they suppose themselves injured?

In

In short, the whole of this troublesome affair seems to have taken its rise from a common debauch, which, I'm sorry to say, are too frequent and too notorious.

I cannot conclude without declaring I think Capt. Holland has acted a very friendly, generous, and humane part; for it very clearly appears that he had no motive but justice for embarking in such a troublesome and expensive an undertaking. If things were wrongly represented to him, he merits our pity, but does not deserve our blame.

I could, however, wish Capt. Holland had not precipitately published his pamphlet; for that has certainly inflamed the minds of some people to such a degree, that they

they will never be brought to think Mr. S. innocent, though it should be prov'd, he was never in the company of the deceased. But as Mr. S. stands fairly acquitted by the laws of his country, and that upon the clearest evidence, so I hope the more sensible part of mankind will believe him innocent; and I likewise hope Capt. Holland is now thoroughly convinced of his error.

F I N I S.



P O S T S C R I P T.

WHEN the former part of this pamphlet was written, I had well considered this affair; and must own that I was greatly prejudiced against Mr. S. and really thought him guilty of the crime laid to his charge; but when the trial was published [the latter part of it I mean] I was then convinced from the undoubted varacity and credit of the witnesses, that I, like a great many more, had mistaken the fact. I therefore hope I shall not be condemned for saying something on both sides: for by having facts wrongly represented to me, I was greatly deceived; but I hope this public recantation will sufficiently compensate for any thing that may be said in the foregoing pages to the prejudice of Mr. Sutton.